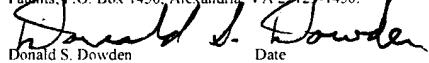


PATENT
1175/73720

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Marcel A.J. Somers, et al.
 Serial No. : 10/521,612
 Filed : 01/14/2005
 For : CASE-HARDENING OF STAINLESS STEEL
 Group : Not Known

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service in first class mail addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


 Donald S. Dowden
 Date
 August 26, 2005
 Reg. No. 20,701

1185 Avenue of the Americas
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 August 26, 2005

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in keeping with the guidelines of 37 CFR 1.98, Applicants hereby submit information thought to be relevant to the above-identified application. Also submitted herewith is a completed form PTO-1449. The cited documents are:

PATENT
1175/73720

US 4,013,487 (Ramqvist et al)	March 22, 1977
Patents Abstract of Japan JP 59006367 A (Nitsuchi KK, Derwent Publications Ltd.)	January 13, 1984
Patents abstract of DD 294048 A (Freiberg Bergakademie)	September 19, 1991
EP 0248431 B1 (Politechnika Krakowska ..., and Fabryka Samochodow ...)	October 6, 1993
W0 00/50661 (Marx Steven V et al)	August 31, 2000
WO 01/54470 A2 (Swageelok Company)	August 2, 2001
Low temperature nitriding of iron, by Department of Interface Physics – Research Projects, page 1-3.	

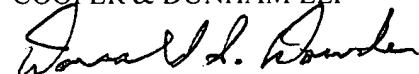
These documents are cited in the corresponding PCT application and are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is requested that the Examiner enter the cited documents in the file of the application and consider them under Rule 56.

The Danish priority application matured as Danish patent No. 174707 B1 on September 29, 2003.

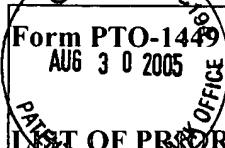
In the absence of more pertinent prior art, the application is in condition for allowance; favorable action is respectfully solicited.

No Office Action has issued, and no fee is due. However, the Patent Office is authorized to charge any fee found to be due or credit any overpayment to our deposit account No. 03-3125. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP



Donald S. Dowden
Reg. No. 20,701



Form PTO-1449 AUG 3 0 2005	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office	Atty. Docket No. 1175/73720	Serial No. 10/521,612
LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		Applicants: Marcel A.J. Somers, Thomas Christiansen and Per Möller	
		Filing Date 01/14/2005	Group Unknown

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial			Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
	US	4 0 1 3 4 8 7	03/22/77	Ramqvist et al.	146	16.5		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

			Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
								Yes	No
		5	9 0 0 6 3 6 7	01/13/84	Japan	C23C	8/20	Abs.	
		DD	2 9 4 0 4 8 A	09/19/91	Germany	C236	8/02	Abs.	
		EP	0 2 4 8 4 3 1	10/06/93	Europe	C23C	8/02	Cl 1	
		WO	0 0 5 0 6 6 1	08/31/00	PCT	C23C	8/02		
		WO	0 1 5 5 4 7 0	08/02/01	PCT	C23C	8/20		

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Low temperature nitriding of iron, by Department of Interface Physics – Research Projects, page 1-3 (07/16/03).

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this from with next communication to applicant.